

**Author:**

Jingjing LI

**Title:**

Interactions Between Self-segregation and University Housing Policy

**About the Author:**

A currently international student in U of I, as a freshman studying in the college of Business. I am planning to major in accountancy in the rest of school years.

**Keywords:**

self-segregation, Housing Policy, race

**Abstract:**

Self-segregation, as a pretty new term, being more and more popular and obvious among students especially who are in colleges, which based on nation or race. Usually, people hang out easily with the certain group of people who may have the same races, even ethnicities with them. We can observe these facts directly from each dorm, University Residence Halls. Couple of researches held by students on campus show that segregation does exist among students. I decided to do some researches based on these evidences and go further, aiming on the interaction between self-segregation and University Housing Policy. Totally five methods are being used: observation, annotated bibliography, interview, analyzing text and survey. Meanwhile, as a member of Culture and Minority Student Affair, I luckily went through a whole process of the resolution which has been passed recently, which strongly recommends the University could adopt a lottery system of housing to cut down the probability of self-segregation gradually year by year.

**Initial Exercises:****\*Journal 1**

At the very beginning of RHET 101, we read a lot of articles which deal with race, racism and even prejudice and discrimination. The article "Talking about Racism" by Wachtel gave me plenty of thoughts on how people segregate themselves by races in United States, a melting pot. "Some tragic and dramatic, some mundane, but all sadly recognizable features of the racial landscape in America" (Wachtel 541). From Wachtel's general thoughts about racism, the word "mundane" from Wachtel's thoughts on racism indicates how all ordinary people mostly are racist naturally or are nurtured by their parents and same race people to believe that their race is superior. To me, the act of racism refers to one race believing that they are intrinsically superior to others who are members in other races, which is why in the world are people judging each other just by race? This made me start being extremely curious about why people are racist

naturally, and why racism had to become such intensively heated topic in this world creating tragic events like wars. Personally, I can't understand racism very well because I probably do not input "Racism" as a category into my brain and I really do not practice it in my daily life.

How do people judge each other so easily depending on just by race? To me, making judgment on others should depend on their action, words, and thoughts, not color of their skin. Thus people who judge by race seem funny, yet extremely sad. "A black couple looking for an apartment is told that it is rented, but a white couple sent by a civil rights group to test for discrimination is shown the apartment an hour later as told it is available." (Wachtel 524) Referring back to my 18 years of life in Beijing, being raised in a big city, I just could not understand and figure out why people define each other by their color and seldom looking deeply inside their mind, to me, it's sad and sympathetic enough for the whole society. As I am seeing that people just put different groups of color people into certain circle and treat in specific ways, as in this melting-pot, United States. Inside peoples' mind, they want to find a group that they belong to and be comfortable with, which has the basic elements with background, culture, and language. Thus, the colors of our faces are the easiest way to define people and that is called "race".

Why racial discrimination still exists so actively? When race becomes racism, it turns worse to injustice, prejudice, inequality, and discrimination, which brings the problem critically serious and global. Furthermore, the main racial discrimination between black and white always pops up on peoples' mind when they see from the face for first impressions. The black couple being rejected for no reason except their skin color, their race. And everyone knows that just not fair, but what can we do? Is there a way out? Well, in my ideal world, it probably can be solved nicely and beautifully. However people forget, the world includes all nations and especially here in America, groups of people represent their own cultural and traditional parts because of their prides inside. Comparisons came out.

Looking back to our history when we have slaves; when we have been through the Civil War; when the first time congress passed the draft of Independents; racial issues changed along with the historical prints. I am a Chinese girl, and by the time I learned Chinese history in high school about Chinese people were belittled by others with the sign in front of the garden said, "Chinese and dogs are not allowed". No one likes that, but that's just happened because of what? Weakness of the Country when compare to others? When powerful nation leads on the top of the world says "yes", who dare to say a single "no"? So, as far as I am concerned, this is our reality, there is nothing to do with fire and equality, and we would rather choose to face the racial issues and try to find a balance from this unbalanced world.

Do people really care about the problem race brought up? There are issues we need to face together as a whole group, everyone knows. However, selfishness is full of peoples' consciousness. "Why should I care?"; "What to do with me?", such questions may come out from almost 70% of people who are not being affected by racism. Only reason why is involving of indifference. The sense of otherness comes to most of the people because it is just not their business, standing in between. It's not we don't want to deal with racial discrimination problems but feeling like no one cares. How sad is that! The way people act as ignoring the role of taking responsibilities and doing their own part, then how can we make it better?

## \*Journal 2

After couple of readings, I've been dragged into a case thinking about race carefully when I deal with my relations with friends, classmates, and even boyfriend. Later on, as we read more on race, I found consensus of opinions on "My freshman year" & "Can we talk". When I read through the passage – "My freshman year", by Robekah Valham, which talks about her real experiences from university freshman year life and true feelings about the cultural differences she has encountered on campus, in variety activities and events she had participated in, I am totally having the same sensation as hers and reading through all 12-page passage without any quiescing passionately.

The reason why I am more interested in reading this passage than others, even though it is much longer than the ones we usually read, is not only because of the simpleness of sentence structures in the passage comparing to others, but also the consensuses "My freshman year" brings to me. With the feeling of comforts go through the whole passage with Valhan, sometimes I feel myself is actually in the stories she's been talking about --- I can be her friend within the Chapter 4, who is an international student, but from China. Every detail and tiny event she mentions builds up her freshman year, I can truly experience since I am a freshman studying overseas and starting with overwhelm campus life as well, just like the expressions in the passage. So, I learned that sense in common brings people together easily and nicely, especially when they have basically the same experiences or backgrounds.

## \*Analysis

I pick two journals from previous readings out of four, typically the first one more like a historical background of race and racism, many definitions are given out from the article. As a summary, I see the main reasons why people are segregated by themselves, first of all is because the strong power of every nation's own background, its own language and custom and tradition; secondly, people always want to find a comfort zone to stay with similar cultural background groups of people. While discriminations and prejudices do happen within our daily life, based on race. Another essential point I read from the article are the peoples' indifferences, which would be included into my research. The second journal I choose to talk about is because these two articles are pretty much near to our lives now on campus. From one's experiences we may make many conclusions as evidences. Some of the facts author indicated in "My Freshman year" I feel strongly in common, because it really surrounds us in our life.

## **Question:**

How do people judge each other so easily depending on just by race?

Why racial discrimination still exists so actively?

Do people really care about the problem race brought up?

Those questions listed above as my first impressions and reactions when I had a brainstorm reading about racism's history, how it formed and how it affects people nowadays. As a student

here in U of I, I see people segregate themselves all the time, especially in dorms. Every weekend, Asians hang out with group of Asians. Similarly, Whites hang out with whites, and blacks always have their own groups. From what I learned superficially, even within Asians, people still segregate themselves into different ethnicities, such as Korean with Koreans, and Chinese with Chinese. Meanwhile, the resolution on University Housing seemed ready to be put on the table of Illini Student Senate. It deals with the Housing system and options changing for the better. I cannot help thinking, is there any interaction between self-segregation and the system of University Housing since students would choose where they want to live before they come to the campus.

**Plan:**

1. Observe: I attend to lots of activities in my free time. So it provides me a opportunity to observe one leadership training program to learn the trends people are toward in their lives.
2. Interview: In order to get on the track along with the resolution, I choose to interview the chair of Culture and Minority Student Affair (CAMSA), and two random students who are currently living in dorms, and if possible, I may interview the faculty who is in charge of University Housing System.
3. Analyze public texts: I will specially focus on the resolution original draft, and final passing draft. Moreover, with two packs of statistics of the population in 2006 and 2007, I would analyze the information from both the forms and find out something really new to contribute into my research.

**Data:**

Research Plan Report 1 --- Observation

Organization:

I-program <Insight leadership trip>

Location:

Hilton Garden Inn Effingham

Time:

October 24-25, 2008

This weekend I have been out of town for the Insight program instead of staying on the campus hanging out with my friends. At very beginning I was extremely afraid that I could not have enough time to continue my research doing the survey and interview because of the training, but later on I found out during the whole process there were so many things worth observing and there were actually lots of links between what we did during the program and my topic.

## Meeting

The meeting started right after everyone was checking-in to the Hilton Garden Inn, Leaders did not ask anyone to us whom to sit with, and I sat with one of my friends, who is the same race as myself. Looking around, I can tell the whole room had already slightly separated into different parts, African Americans sat by African Americans; Whites sat by whites; and Asians sat by Asians. But this segregation would not be noticed easily unless someone pointed it out. I think that because people were not starting knowing each other and they would feel more comfortable with their own friends together, like me.

## Activities

During the straight two days of training, we did a lot of projects together. The leader separated all of us into different groups: Stars, Vegetables, Fishes, Fruits and so on. Those interesting objects represented each of those groups of students. People stopped introducing and knowing each other by race; instead, we started knowing each other by our group signs. Then within each group, everyone randomly got a partner by candy-picking. My partner was a white girl who lives in FAR. Cooperation was needed throughout all of our projects.

There was a certain activity we did that influenced me a lot: Leaders put up several categories of words on the wall, and then they asked questions, each of us had to choose a certain place to stay. All of us participated. Those categories were: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Economical level, Sexual Orientation, Ability, and Appearance. The questions were,

Which of these categories would you think you would feel the most/least confident by yourself?  
Which of these categories would you think that makes you feel the most comfortable/embarrassed with?

Which of these categories would you think that let you are put into a situation being discriminated?

The most obvious phenomenon I observed was that almost half of the students chose to stand in front of the word RACE when they answered the last question. I started realizing that racial issues happened not only on campus, but also in every situation we may deal with.

## Dinner & Breakfast

By the time we ate in the dining room next door where we had meeting and activities together, I observed that people around me started chatting and getting to know each other more and more. Each of those students had his or her group's sticker sign on the chest. It seemed those group signs became more useful for defining people in this leadership program, than race. There were a total of ten big tables for us in the special dining room, and I realized that each table contained people of different races and various ethnicities. I started chatting with a Korean international student who was sitting beside me and two white girls in my table. We had a good time. After eating, everyone went back to the meeting room.

## Analysis

From the two-day observation on this off-campus leadership meeting activity, I not only learned the skills of being a leader but for my research observation, I paid more attention on how people act both emotionally and physically when they get involved in a program with different races of others.

I found out that defining people by race in our reality is so common, not because people like choosing race as delimitation, but the racial differences are the most obvious distinctness in peoples' faces when they first meet someone. Even in my previous observation paragraphs I used the word "whites" just to simply give a brief idea for description. Although during daily life we sometimes call the blacks "African Americans" in a respectful way, everyone may still feel the same meaning back there, not disrespectful but we cannot find a better word to define people by our first sight. Just like the activity we did in the Insight, If we separate people into different groups and name them like "Stars", "Vegetables", "Fishes", "Fruits", etc, we were working on the problems together with each own group member within certain group. Meanwhile, people have already put themselves into certain groups, thinking that "I am representing XXX group", but NOT "My race/ethnicity/ is XXX" anymore. Then after we had done the group work, competition occurred, which means comparisons between different groups appeared. Since everyone has already been randomly assigned into certain group randomly, being one part of the whole certain group, everyone wants to contribute to the group even a little bit. Somehow, group pride showed among each group.

The fact what I observed really relates to our racial society. I mean, in reality, no one can choose or predict what race he or she will have before birth. I did not know that my parents were Chinese when I was in uterine body and I did not know I was going to be a Chinese girl until my parents told me. I did not know I was ethnically Chinese until I was surrounded by all the Chinese culture and elements during my whole eighteen years. Just like the Insight activity I attended over the weekend, I did not know which group they signed me into until I got my name card. We started contributing to our group right after we knew which groups we were in. Same in reality—each nation has its own pride, and people always want to be proud of their nationality, even race. That's how discrimination formed among people—comparison and competition. Facing choices, there is always a comparison, such—our group got the third place after all. So, back to my research topic, my hypothesis is that racial issues and prejudices in university housing do not directly deal with peoples' pre-judgments, but before they stepped into campus, the dorms where they have chosen to live already separated people into different certain groups. The certain university housing students live in pretty much decide and limit which group of people the students hang out with. Both segregation and self-segregation function.

## Research Report 2 --- Annotated Bibliography

Myers, Joshua Herrera-Urizar, Juan Pablo. "Cultural mapping of dorms" (IDEAL)  
<<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/1837>>

This project illustrates the distribution of student which according to race, sex, socio-economic status, in both current and past, especially within the dorms PAR/FAR and Six Pack. The impact

includes these distributions of student housing and even the university community. The main question is: “Do students’ race, socio-economic status, and/or gender affect placement in student housing?” (Herrera-Urizar, Myers) The methods are basically cultural mapping, participant observation, and data from interviews/surveys, which over 40 individuals with both students and advisors. The Six Pack houses mostly white students, while PAR/FAR houses mostly minority students, international students, black students, and Asian students. Since students self-segregate themselves based on race and ethnicity, the different racial climate among campus, the root cause of this is that students are not assigned housing until they have secured adequate financial aid students requiring financial aid are placed at a later date. The researchers seek out several comparisons between these two locations and examine peoples’ trends on each of the dorm.

This bibliography helps me a lot on adjusting what differences exist between the university dorms, especially between FAR/PAR and Six-Pack. Those different climates such as location, racial/ethnic makeup, living-learning interests, and networks, dining services and social aspects as a whole big factor show why and how self-segregation occurs among students. Giving me an idea as references so I can go further to search more about the housing system based on the differences between the dorms. While the aiming objects in this research (FAR/PAR and Six Pack) are the most distinct dorms from each other. This relates to my question as well—are self-segregation and housing policies/system interacting each other on campus?

Novak, Wade. “Informal Segregation in Campus Housing.” (IDEAL)  
<<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/3661>>

Wade’s research is an attempt to explore the informal segregation present in undergraduate residence halls at U of I. Over the course he discovered that this picture is anything but simple. After finding out that self-segregation to some degree exists he pulls research to explore two avenues: the housing admission process and diversity levels in the dorms. He discusses how the influences a student are housing preferences and whether or not diversity existed in residence halls. Through ethnographic data gathered in the form of interviews, he attempted to understand student opinions on this informal arrangement. Since this topic is kind of being limited by the campus, Wade could not go further deep more into his research, but examines there self-segregation occurs among our campus as evidence.

This research helps me on the evidence that diversity exists in the residence halls overall, and shows both benefits and disadvantaged that diversity brings to the campus. I may based on his conclusion that diversity and self-segregation exist among University residence halls to research more on how they self-segregated and if there are some interactions between the self-segregation and University housing system policies.

Brake, Alan G. “Competition rethinks student housing for the echo-boom generation.”  
<<http://find.galegroup.com.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/itx/start.do?prodId=AONE>>

This article studies on the decision of the Association of College, and University Housing Officials International to sponsor a three-stage competition—“the 21st Century Project aimed at designing and building a state-of-the-art residential facility prototype”. The competition's first stage was to design a model room, second phase which would ask entrants to build upon

students' design, extrapolating it to the scale of a building and emphasizing communal aspects of residential living, then the third phase which identify a site for a prototype building, asking entrants to relate the dormitory to a broader campus community. The contest was in resulted to Jonathan Levi Architects, who is in high school graduates entering colleges in the US, won this designing of a model room, as it will appear 25 years in the future. "The class of 2009 will be the largest high school graduating class in U.S. history. If the idea of that many 18-year-olds entering into the world makes you nervous, imagine how university housing officials feel" (Brake, Alan G.) It shows that the latest population of university students is tremendously thriving. And officials start worry about the housing for the next large generation.

This document provides me more specific information on recent university housing, even though it not directly deals with race issue. Facing the fact that with a fast growing population for next generation of college students, university housing officials need to redress the housing for the large scale coming students, hence the housing system may change to the better. This article may inspire me on how the university housing policies or the system changing over time, helping me to evaluate the future picture according to the self-segregation housing resolution passed by Illini Student Senate.

Li, Yan, Mark C. Sheely II, and Donald F. Whalen. "Contributors to Residence Hall Student Retention: Why so Students Choose to Leave or Stay?"  
<<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=18364167&site=ehost-live>>

Within the article, researchers examine the factors that contributed to student retention in a residence hall at a Midwestern university. The studies have documented the benefits of on-campus living. Researchers found that on-campus students, especially those students who lived in residence halls, seemed were more satisfied with the university experience than those who live off campus..The article analyzes these meaningful positive benefits to keep students want to stay living on campus are the locations close to campus, the meal plans are coming with the housing, the surrounding atmospheres is easy for students' social interaction communications, etc. The residential life has certain advantages over off-campus life in terms of social interaction and positive involvement with peers, faculty and communities.

This is the research from the university other than U of I, at Midwestern University. From the research, I see statistics were used to illustrate the racial climate in the university housing. Some demographic characteristics show the significant contribution to living preferences. This may help me to evaluate the trends college students toward, as on another level out of campus. Compare to other University Residence housings, I may make conclusion and comparison easily and referentially, as a useful secondary source.

Bleiberg, Sara. "A Case for Mixed-Sex University Housing Policies."  
<<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=16455175&site=ehost-live>>

The author of this article, Bleiberg, is from New York University. She discusses issues on mixed-sex university housing policies in the U.S. as of June 2004. The background on diversity and multicultural awareness in higher education, impacts of same-sex roommate pairings on transgender students; Reasons behind the failure to standardize mixed-sex housing in college and



university campuses. She seeks the developmental and educational climate for New York University among the emerging diverse population.”A student’s living environment should be a ‘safe space’ that supports personal growth and identity development, and many LGBT students are not receiving this support as a result of current room assignment policies.”, says in the article, states and suggests that one should have his or her own space, while in practice not lots of student do have personal space. Also, Bleiberg lists the arguments that go against mixed-sex housing, such as concerns from parents, conflicts from religion, and different views from personal values. As a whole, she makes the conclusion that mixed-sex university housing policies are useful for our social community and students’ developments. Then looking forward the next step—mixed sex room assignments.

This article may help me on referencing changing within past years of university housing policies, how the modern idea came up with at that point, and facing which kinds of multiple arguments and critics, finally how the change worked. While the process was seemed similar with the topic what I am researching right now, but the different issues. In my personal opinion, if this Mixed-sex university housing policy was not put into practice, our topic for now, which deals with students the different racial would be hard to come out as a new category. Because of the gender issue was even more serious and people get segregated by gender obviously several years ago. So, as a transition from past to nowadays, this change on university housing seems helping me on the historical data reference, which directly relates to my topic.

### Research Report 3 --- Interview Materials

For the whole research on the University Housing System, I planned interview four people—one of them is a faculty working with the Multicultural and Minority Center; one of them is the Chair of one of the Student Senate Committees—Culture And Minority Student Affair; the other two are current students who are both living in University Housing but different dorms, one is a freshman and the other is a sophomore. None of them have the same race, nor same age.

Basically, I prepared two types of questions: one for student and the other for faculties. However, during my interviews, I showed both two types of the questions to them to see if there are some links between the two sets of questions and answers.

From the process of the interviewing so far, I think I get enough information, more than my expectation. Meanwhile, I learned something really new also, especially from different peoples’ point of views. For some of the questions they may hold the similar views, while for some of the other questions their ideas are totally apart from each other.

### Interview Questions

Here I am pasting some of the typical questions that within my interviews which I get really useful and inspirable responses from:

∞What do you think about the multicultural phenomenon that occurs among the University housings?

- ∞Are there any positive influences in the University Residence Hall which put different race students who have different ethnic backgrounds and cultural habits together?
- ∞Do you know any of the conflicts happened in the university housing? Are there any conflicts based on the difference in race or ethnic background?
- ∞Do you see any segregation appearing inside the university housing? How are they like?
- ∞Do you have any stories that deal with race that happened to you or people around you that impacted your emotions strongly?
- ∞Are there any special treatments for minorities?
- ∞How much do you know about the University Housing system?
- ∞Do you have any suggestions to the university housing regarding providing comfortable environments to all different race?
- ∞What are your overall opinions on the relationship between UIUC university housing and different races interacting together?
- ∞Are you doing any the projects based on ethnicity or race?
- ∞Many people may not realize but state schools with the housing system of first come first serve and less of caring about students, some students suffer a lot from this housing system. Did you know this fact?
- ∞If we apply to have a lottery system within University dorms instead of first come first serve system, do you think it is going to influence the campus positively, in another ten years?
- ∞What are your suggestions to changing this housing system?
- ∞Thank you for your participation, lastly, would you give me any racial problems you seen in housing system due to its first come first serve system?

## Analysis

The responses I get from all of them are helping me getting closer to my research target, and everyone brought me some new ideas and information.

Zia, the chair of Culture and Minority Student Affair, as a graduate school student, she provided me a very valuable source—Resolution on University Housing in U of I—recently, she leads her committee members working on this resolution and doing the certain researches and discussions. Luckily, I am one of the members within CAMSA, and get the chance attending the every-week meetings. Back to those questions, Zia remarked that it seems to her that university housing perpetuates self-segregation among people of different racial backgrounds when I asked the first question, on “What do you think about the multicultural phenomenon that occurs among the University housings?” It's pretty obvious that the six-pack is primarily Whites and Caucasians, FAR/PAR is mostly Black and Asian, and ISR is mostly Asian. “Considering freshman year, sets the foundation for the rest of our college career, most students tend to stick with those they are surrounded by freshman year (who tend to be people of their own races)”, Zia said. She pointed out that since certain dorms on campus have special racial demographics, and many times this is caused by the fact that the university does not have a lottery system to assign housing. As students get accepted, they chose their housing. Thus, the students who tend to be left without a choice for housing are those on the waiting list, waiting on financial aid/scholarships. These students tend to be minorities and lower-classes. While I was asking about the stories she has that directly deal with the discrimination by race, her eyes were full of anger combined with sympathy,” From my experience during my freshman year in university housing, my roommates

and I and other friends of color experienced hostility due to our race. First of all, my roommates and I were the only minorities on our floor in the six-pack. Hardly did any girl ever talk to us or try to be friends with us. If we even tried to make eye contact or introduce ourselves, we did not get the most welcoming response.” Zia also told me that she had an African American friend, who was placed randomly with two white girls. The girls would call her racial slurs, did not talk to her and instead left notes all over the dorm for her to read. In fact, after my friend had gone home for the weekend, she returned to find out that her roommates had kicked her out of the dorm and placed her belongings outside. They said that they were not comfortable living with a Black girl. Actually, this is a very sad story that being prejudiced or discriminated by others, especially who you are rooming with. From Zia, I see those things caused by race still happen among our University Residence Halls, sadly and rottenly. The question comes upon my head—should we suggest changing our University Housing System for students’ good that give every single one an equal chance to choose their dorm instead of being sent anywhere else? Thus, Zia as the chair of CAMSA committee, suggest the campus start thinking about and adopting the lottery system which has been used for years and years in Harvard, Princeton, and several World top universities.

On the other hand, through the feedback I got from Wan and Alley, who are current freshman and sophomore, the interview atmosphere was pretty much relax. Toward the same question, Wan said,” We could study their housing system as a good reference, but I do not think that we should change the housing system completely to a new system.” And, same as Alley, they are both pretty satisfied with the recent University housing system and getting quite well along with roommates. Alley, as a sophomore this year on campus, still chooses living on campus at Busey - one of the University Residence Halls which is women only. Aiming at their opinions on the recent first come first serve strategy in the Housing system policy, Wan illustrated that some students who came from low-income families or other countries and who made their decision to come to the school relatively late than other students are placed into dorms such as PAR, which was not their first choice, as a real life example. Over all, all three of them as student body, have desires to encourage more intersections between different races and ethnicities. The feedbacks I got from all of them are very useful and valuable; I would love to put those ideas and information into my final research paper.

#### Note

Since this huge process of University Residence Housing resolution has been working on for couple of years already, CAMSA members get together every Monday to discuss and modify more and more little by little. Now, I get the latest modified resolution. However, it might change times over times in the future. No matter this resolution finally could be passed or not, I would love to trace this as a very essential recent source to help myself continue my research. Also, all the data I got right now promoted me to go further to search some historical documents on University Housing policies changing over years. Let’s see how our Housing system changed over times, what difficulties we are facing right now, and how we are going to find a way to perfectly solve them to the future.

#### Research Report 4 --- Analyze text

Illinois Student Senate -Culture and Minority Student Affair  
Resolution on University Residence Housing  
Illinois Student Senate Resolution (11-03-2008-01)  
Author(s): Ravji, Beber  
Supporter(s): CAMSA, Rummage, Rosa, Keller

Whereas, University Housing options are selected by first-year undergraduates on a first come, first serve basis,

Whereas, first-year undergraduates who are waiting on financial aid, scholarships, and deferment choose housing later than most students,

Whereas, these students are left with few options in their decision of housing, and are often put into the only remaining available housing,

Whereas, these students come from low-income backgrounds and tend to come from similar racial and ethnic backgrounds,

Whereas, students who accept admission earlier have a choice, and often select their housing based on the stereotypes associated with each housing option,

Whereas, students who choose their housing based on these stereotypes thus add to the homogeneity of these communities,

Whereas, students tend to make connections and form communities based on their experiences and environment in housing,

Whereas, these connections and communities often last for years beyond students' first year on campus,

Whereas, this system of selecting housing thus is unequal towards low-income students, encourage students of similar racial and ethnic backgrounds to live together, encourages the self-segregation of students of similar backgrounds, viewpoints, and intellectual pursuits,

Whereas, many students have voiced their concern with this unequal housing structure,

Whereas, other top tier schools have addressed these issues by successfully implementing a lottery system for selecting housing. Lottery systems consist of randomly placing students in different sections of University housing,

Whereas, introducing a lottery system for first-year, undergraduate students would be an applicable choice to University of Illinois housing,

Whereas, first-year students who are waiting on financial aid, scholarships, and deferment would no longer face an unequal choice in housing assignments, students of low-income and similar racial and ethnic backgrounds would be more evenly distributed in housing, and students would no longer be able to choose their housing based on perceived stereotypes,

Whereas, this lottery system would encourage more racially and ethnically diverse housing and provide first-year students with a new perspective on diversity at the University of Illinois,

Whereas, this lottery system would have the long-term benefits both of breaking down the stereotypes associated with each housing type, breaking down the stereotypes held by individual students, and encouraging lasting, diverse multicultural communities in housing,

Whereas, the lottery system would further support the University mandate of Inclusive Illinois,

And Whereas, exceptions would be made for students who prefer to live in single-gender housing, living and learning communities, housing that fit needs of students with disabilities, or students with special religious circumstances,

Therefore, let it be resolved, that the Illinois Student Senate, as the official voice of the Student Body, encourage University Housing to adopt a lottery system to choose housing for first-year, undergraduate students.

### Analysis

This is the draft of the resolution on University Housing in U of I. CAMSA (Culture and Minority Student Affair) members have been working on this project for two years since changing the system of University Housing is a huge process. I believe this text directly relates to my research final paper because this is a very good source for me to get into the affairs to know more information about how people work on this project, while it yet done. This draft was built up little by little and being changed time to time and finally it looks ready to be put on the Student Senate table. It argues that the University should adopt the lottery system instead of the first come first serve policy. It's aiming at more specifically the treatment of the international students and financial-aid students who are first-year students, how and why they don't have enough choices to pick where they want to live if they get admitted late.

Furthermore, the resolution shows how students self-segregate themselves making the climate on university housing more diverse and apart. Proposals were made to the University that changing into the lottery system, so in maybe ten years we would see the less self-segregated environment at this university.

The recent good news is that the resolution finally has been passed by the 2/3 majority in the Illinois Student Senate. I would love to classify the issues into different categories. While, the first four "whereas" deal with the financial difficulties and low-income influence students in university housing, five to eight aim at preserves stereotypes and communities in social life with the certain groups, here self-segregation is mentioned and included in the "whereas"; to reach the solution, it is strongly recommended to the University to adopt a lottery system for University Housing, raising up the chance that first-year students with different races get together more by the lottery system. We may not see the influence it has to our university in two or three years because of the adaptation, but in ten years. This is a big step for the university. As the events going on, I may able to search for more lately information to catch up with the life pace. Such questions like, now that resolution got passed what's next?

Also, I have the valuable statistics which show the population of University Residence Housing for each dorm in 2006 and 2007. I can analyze the difference and changing over recent one year. Even though I do not have an electronic copy, I do have one in my hand. And plus, I would love to analyze these two sets of graphs and documents into my final research paper. When I explain the resolution, I mostly like to use this evidence and data to illustrate the reason why this new housing policy is strongly recommended by Illini Student Senate, which originally drafted by Culture and Minority Student Affair.

### Discuss:

RHET 101  
Jingjing LI

Fall 2008

## Interaction between self-segregation and University Housing Policy

### Introduction

Inside the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a huge college with over 40 thousands of students, students here on campus are continuing their academic degrees and accomplishing their goals step by step. As an international student from China while studying here in U of I, it is first time for me to be in the undergraduate with an average of 7,500 students per class. For the growing population in Asian American students from 1970 till today, the percentage of total students is at a tremendous increasing rate from 1.2% to 11%, while the population of international students has not included yet. Gradually, the University Housings are segregated by race, at least here in U of I.

In daily life, I strongly feel that people are separated into groups and parts basically by race. Almost all the time from what I see, Asians hang out with Asians, Whites party with Whites, and Black people have their own groups to stay with. Black, White, Asian, Minority, these terms and categories are to define people in the first place. And, I am probably being put into one of those “Asian”. From several annotated bibliographies, I learned that segregation does occur and exists on campus, especially during students’ free time, in dorms and housings. Compare two areas of University Housings, the Six Pack houses mostly white students, while PAR/FAR houses mostly minority students, international students, black students, and Asian students. Since students self-segregate themselves based on race and ethnicity, the different racial climate among campus, the root cause of this is that students are not assigned housing until they have secured adequate financial aid students requiring financial aid are placed at a later date (Myers, Joshua Herrera-Urizar, and Juan Pablo). After finding out that self-segregation to some degree exists, Novak and Wade pulled research to explore two avenues: the housing admission process and diversity levels in the dorms (Novak, Wade). Researchers have already examined such self-segregation exists on campus, in the Residence Halls. What spurs me more to do the research on the topic of self-segregation, which is based on segregation, is the resolution on University Housing from Student Senate here in U of I. As a member of Culture and Minority Student Affair, I have been involved in the whole process of this resolution, and I would want to find out more about the interactions between students and campus, which both segregation and self-segregation function.

### Methods

The four methods I use are observation, annotated bibliography, interview, and text analysis. From my observation on the Insight activity through one of the weekends I had, I got many interesting points of views and questions for me to get start with my research. Then I would choose to find out some bibliographic entries which could provide me the history of changing on the policies, particularly on University Housing. For interview, I interviewed three current students. Zia, the chair of Culture and Minority Student Affair, as a graduate school student, she provided me a very valuable source—Resolution on University Housing in U of I—recently, she leads her committee members working on this resolution and doing the certain researches and discussions. Meanwhile, as a member of Culture and Minority Student Affair, I luckily went

through a whole process of the resolution which has been passed recently, which recommends the University could adopt a lottery system of housing to cut down the probability of self-segregation gradually year by year. It is necessary to research more on this lately project. Also I interviewed Wan and Alley, a freshman and a sophomore who are recently living on campus in the Residence Hall, Six-Pack and Busey Evans. Unfortunately, I did not get any of the response from the vice chancellor of Intercultural Affairs on the interview until now. However, I would use all the information what I collected right now to support the evaluation and conclusion I got for my research. Moreover, I set up plenty of questions for my survey, aiming at the students who are living in the dorms on campus. Last, I found two data as the analysis text on the statistics of the population in dorms from 2006 and 2007; I would make the comparisons from these two sets of data.

## Observation

All my thoughts started with the time here in one of the leadership programs I attended, on how people define others and how people are willing to be in certain group easily and naturally without any of notice.

Throughout the weekend on October 24-25, 2008, I attended to the activity held by I-program on campus to have a leader skill training session Hilton Garden Inn Effingham. I found out during the whole process there were so many things worth observing and there were lots of links between what we did during the program and my topic.

The meeting started right after everyone was checking-in to the Hilton Garden Inn, Leaders did not ask anyone to us whom to sit with, and I sat with one of my friends, who is the same race as myself. Looking around, I can tell the whole room had already slightly separated into different parts, African Americans sat by African Americans; Whites sat by whites; and Asians sat by Asians. But this segregation would not be noticed easily unless someone pointed it out. I think that because people were not starting knowing each other and they would feel more comfortable with their own friends together, like me.

During the straight two days of training, we did a lot of projects together. The leader separated all of us into different groups: Stars, Vegetables, Fishes, Fruits and so on. Those interesting objects represented each of those groups of students. People stopped introducing and knowing each other by race; instead, we started knowing each other by our group signs. Then within each group, everyone randomly got a partner by candy-picking. My partner was a white girl who lives in FAR. Cooperation was needed throughout all of our projects.

There was a certain activity we did that influenced me a lot: Leaders put up several categories of words on the wall, and then they asked questions, each of us had to choose a certain place to stay. All of us participated. Those categories were: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Economical level, Sexual Orientation, Ability, and Appearance. The questions were,

<sup>2</sup> Which of these categories that makes you would feel the most/least confident by yourself?

<sup>2</sup> Which of these categories that makes you feel the most comfortable/embarrassed with?

<sup>2</sup> Which of these categories that let you are put into a situation being discriminated?

The most obvious phenomenon I observed was that almost half of the students chose to stand in front of the word RACE when they answered the last question. I started realizing that racial issues happened not only on campus, but also in every situation we may deal with.

From the two-day observation on this off-campus leadership meeting activity, I not only learned the skills of being a leader but for my research observation, I paid more attention on how people act both emotionally and physically when they get involved in a program with different races of others.

I found out that defining people by race in our reality is so common, not because people like choosing race as delimitation, but the racial differences are the most obvious distinctness among people when they first meet someone. Even in my previous observation paragraphs I used the word “whites” just simply give a brief idea for description. Although in daily life we sometimes call the blacks “African Americans” in a respectful way, everyone may still feel the same meaning back there, not disrespectful but we cannot find a better word to define people by our first sight. Just like the activity we did in the Insight, If we separate people into different groups and name them like “Stars”, “Vegetables”, “Fishes”, “Fruits”, etc, we were working on the problems together with each own group member within certain group. Meanwhile, people have already put themselves into certain groups, thinking that “I am representing XXX group”, but NOT “My race/ethnicity/ is XXX” anymore. Then after we had done the group work, competition occurred, which means comparisons between different groups appeared. Since everyone has already been randomly assigned into certain group randomly, being one part of the whole certain group, everyone wants to contribute to the group even a little bit. Somehow, group pride showed among each group.

The fact what I observed really relates to our racial society. I mean, in reality, no one can choose or predict what race he or she will have before birth. I did not know that my parents were Chinese when I was in uterine body and I did not know I was going to be a Chinese girl until my parents told me. I did not know I was ethnically Chinese until I was surrounded by all the Chinese culture and elements during my whole eighteen years. Just like the Insight activity I attended over the weekend, I did not know which group they signed me into until I got my name card. We started contributing to our group right after we knew which groups we were in. Same in reality—each nation has its own pride, and people always want to be proud of their nationality, even race. That’s how discrimination formed among people—comparison and competition. Facing choices, there is always a comparison, such—our group got the third place after all. So, back to my research topic, my hypothesis is that racial issues and prejudices in university housing do not directly deal with peoples’ pre-judgments, but before they stepped into campus, the dorms where they have chosen to live already separated people into different certain groups. The certain university housing students live in pretty much decide and limit which group of people the students hang out with. Both segregation and self-segregation function.

#### Analysis of Text

As shown in the appendix, the draft of the resolution on University Housing in U of I. CAMSA (Culture and Minority Student Affair) members have been working on this project for three years



since 2005, by occasion of changing the system of University Housing is a huge process. This text directly relates to my research final paper because this is a very good source for me to get into affairs to know more information about how people work on this project, while it yet done. This draft was built up little by little and being changed time to time and finally it looks ready to be put on the Student Senate table. It argues that the University should adopt the lottery system instead of the first come first serve policy. It's aiming more at specifically the treatment of the international students and financial-aid students who are first-year students, how and why they don't have enough choices to pick where they want to live if they get admitted late.

Furthermore, the resolution shows how students self-segregate themselves making the climate on university housing more diverse and apart. Proposals were made to the University that changing into the lottery system, so in maybe ten years we would see the less self-segregated environment at this university.

The first four "whereas" deal with the financial difficulties and low-income influence students in university housing, five to eight aim at preserves stereotypes and communities in social life with the certain groups, here self-segregation is mentioned and included in the "whereas"; to reach the solution, it is strongly recommended to the University to adopt a lottery system for University Housing, raising up the chance that first-year students with different races get together more by the lottery system. However, the resolution might change times over times in the future. No matter this resolution finally could be passed or not, I would love to trace this as a very essential recent source to help myself continue my research.

This resolution as a text interests me lots and brought up my curiosity to continue my research on self-segregation. Meanwhile, I have a question upon on my mind: Is the segregation climate on campus only the consequence of self-segregation? Or as my hypothesis in mind, college policies also promote this segregation and interact with students' self-segregation.

## Interviews

Keep finding more information and prospects based on my hypothesis, for my whole research on the University Housing System, I planned interview four people—one of them is a faculty working with the Multicultural and Minority Center; one of them is the Chair of one of the Student Senate Committees—Culture And Minority Student Affair; the other two are current students who are both living in University Housing but different dorms, one is a freshman and the other is a sophomore. None of them have the same race, or same age. Interview questions are shown in appendix on the last page.

From the process of the interviewing so far, I think I get enough information, more than my expectations. Meanwhile, I learned something really new also, especially from different peoples' point of views. For some of the questions they may hold the similar views, while for some of the other questions their ideas are totally apart from each other. Some of the typical questions that within my interviews help me get really useful and inspirable responses.

Zia, the chair of Culture and Minority Student Affair, as a graduate school student, she provided me a very valuable source—Resolution on University Housing in U of I—recently, she leads her

committee members working on this resolution and doing the certain researches and discussions. Luckily, I got the chance attending the every-week meetings with CAMSA. Back to those questions, Zia remarked that it seems to her that university housing perpetuates self-segregation among people of different racial backgrounds when I asked the first question, on “What do you think about the multicultural phenomenon that occurs among the University housings?” It's pretty obvious that the six-pack is primarily Whites and Caucasians, FAR/PAR is mostly Black and Asian, and ISR is mostly Asian. “Considering freshman year, sets the foundation for the rest of our college career, most students tend to stick with those they are surrounded by freshman year (who tend to be people of their own races)”, Zia said. She pointed out that since certain dorms on campus have special racial demographics, and many times this is caused by the fact that the university does not have a lottery system to assign housing. As students get accepted, they chose their housing. Thus, the students who tend to be left without a choice for housing are those on the waiting list, waiting on financial aid/scholarships. These students tend to be minorities and lower-classes. While I was asking about the stories she has that directly deal with the discrimination by race, her eyes were full of anger combined with sympathy,” From my experience during my freshman year in university housing, my roommates and I and other friends of color experienced hostility due to our race. First of all, my roommates and I were the only minorities on our floor in the six-pack. Hardly did any girl ever talk to us or try to be friends with us. If we even tried to make eye contact or introduce ourselves, we did not get the most welcoming response.” Zia also told me that she had an African American friend, who was placed randomly with two white girls. The girls would call her racial slurs, did not talk to her and instead left notes all over the dorm for her to read. In fact, after my friend had gone home for the weekend, she returned to find out that her roommates had kicked her out of the dorm and placed her belongings outside. They said that they were not comfortable living with a Black girl. Actually, this is a very sad story that being prejudiced or discriminated by others, especially who you are rooming with. From Zia, I see those things caused by race still happen among our University Residence Halls, sadly and rottenly. The question comes upon my head—should we suggest changing our University Housing System for students’ good that give every single one an equal chance to choose their dorm instead of being sent anywhere else? Thus, Zia as the chair of CAMSA committee, suggest the campus start thinking about and adopting the lottery system which has been used for years and years in Harvard, Princeton, and several World top universities.

On the other hand, through the feedback I got from Wan and Alley, who are current freshman and sophomore, the interview atmosphere was pretty much relax. In answering the same question, Wan said,” We could study their housing system as a good reference, but I do not think that we should change the housing system completely to a new system.” And, same as Alley, they are both pretty satisfied with the recent University housing system and getting quite well along with roommates. Alley, as a sophomore this year on campus, still chooses living on campus at Busey -- one of the University Residence Halls which is women only. Aiming at their opinions on the recent first come first serve strategy in the Housing system policy, Wan illustrated that some students who came from low-income families or other countries and who made their decision to come to the school relatively late than other students are placed into dorms such as PAR, which was not their first choice, as a real life example. Over all, all three of them as student body, have desires to encourage more intersections between different races and ethnicities. However, from all their responses, I found out that the reactions were still slightly

different. It seemed Alley and Wan are pretty enjoying their life atmosphere here on campus, not much uncomfortable incidents surround them. The answers I got from are quite simple and short. While on the other hand, since Zia is the chair in the committee of CAMSA, plus such discrimination really happened to her surroundings, it seemed she has this responsibility and strong point of view and reaction on the sensitive topic-segregation.

Also, all the data I got right now promoted me to go further to search some historical documents on University Housing policies changing over years. Let's see how our Housing system changed over times, what difficulties we are facing right now, and how we are going to find a way to perfectly solve them to the future.

Tracing with the process of the resolution to my research, the resolution finally got passed through the Illini Student Senate on November 12, 2008; it seems like a very good start of changing the racial climate within University Housing little by little in future years. So, I keep continuing my interview with Zia, the chair of Culture and Minority Student Affair, the resolution draft's originator.

I am surprised by Zia's answer that they tried to pass a similar resolution in fall of 2005 and it did not get through the student senate. It's been three years. "This year in 2008, we tried again this year and it worked well with a compromise. The compromise was that we would not incorporate a complete lottery system instead we would start gradually with incorporating a 'global crossroads' or 'intersections' type of system in each dorm to begin with", Zia stated. The biggest problem right now being faced was that some students thought their right of picking a dorm be taken away. "At the meeting where we passed the resolution, a lot of engineering students felt that they would not be able to pick ISR as their dorm, which is close to the engineering quad", said Zia. Exceptions would be made in the lottery system such as: students who have certain health needs, students who want to live in living and learning communities, those with religious circumstances, students who want to live in single gender housing. Thus, the campus would not create a complete lottery system but instead we doing it for only one floor in each housing unit. Some people are afraid of the change because they do want to chose where they want to live; however, I think people are really willing to try it. When I asked about the next step, Zia smiled and said "Next, we will be working with the vice chancellor of intercultural affairs, Anna Gonzalez, to help implement a new housing structure." Deeply inside my mind, I really hope to see changing for the better in the future, gradually, little by little.

## Conclusion

For the next large generation of college students, "The class of 2009 will be the largest high school graduating class in U.S. history. If the idea of that many 18-year-olds entering into the world makes you nervous, imagine how university housing officials feel" (Brake, Alan G.), the recent population of college students is enormously thriving. With the growing population of first-year undergraduates, the burden on University Housing will become much obvious. Assume the Housing officials still choose to adopt first come first serve housing policy, as the trend of data shown in the introduction, I can see the Residence Halls are segregated strikingly in the future four or five years. Based on the process how finally the resolution on University Housing got passed, I noticed that self-segregation occurs among university housings by students

segregate themselves. But every coin has two sides, there are also part of the Housing Policies slightly promote self-segregation.

The recent good news is that the resolution finally has been passed by the 2/3 majority in the Illini Student Senate on November 12, 2008. I would love to classify the issues into different categories. While, we may not see the influence it has to our university in two or three years because of the adaptation, but in ten years. This is a big step for the university. Such questions like: “now that resolution got passed, what’s next?” followed with.

Changing happens all the time. New York University adopted mixed-sex university housing policies in June 2004. Mixed-sex university housing policies are useful for the social community and students’ developments (Bleiberg, Sara). As the resolution got passed, it means changing comes. No matter a little change or a big change, it’s a time for changing. We see people self-segregate themselves into certain groups that they want, day by day, year by year. Gradually the separation forms more and more obviously, which may hurt the climate of racial aspects of the university as a whole. Living with the unfair policies and discriminations, most of the time people would rather to choose indifferences. However, from Housing Policy’s little changing, it means a brand new start, where we can start with. We will look forward for the future, changing for the better.

As far as I am concerned, changing on the policy in University Housing even a little bit is still a big step and no one can predict totally correct for the future. One of the interactions between the policies and students is segregation and self-segregation. People would feel comfortable within the certain group with the similar backgrounds and they naturally want to find their comfort zone especially in housing where they live. To fix the coming issue instead promote it, we finally find a great way, which adopting lottery housing system, from the little changing to the big achievement.

### **EUI Links:**

Myers, Joshua Herrera-Urizar, Juan Pablo. “Cultural mapping of dorms” (IDEAL)  
<<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/1837>>

This project illustrates the distribution of student which according to race, sex, socio-economic status, in both current and past, especially within the dorms PAR/FAR and Six Pack. The impact includes these distributions of student housing and even the university community. The main question is: “Do students’ race, socio-economic status, and/or gender affect placement in student housing?” (Herrera-Urizar, Myers) The methods are basically cultural mapping, participant observation, and data from interviews/surveys, which over 40 individuals with both students and advisors. The Six Pack houses mostly white students, while PAR/FAR houses mostly minority students, international students, black students, and Asian students. Since students self-segregate themselves based on race and ethnicity, the different racial climate among campus, the root cause of this is that students are not assigned housing until they have secured adequate financial aid students requiring financial aid are placed at a later date. The researchers seek out several comparisons between these two locations and exam peoples’ trends on each of the dorm.

This bibliography helps me a lot on adjusting what differences exist between the university dorms, especially between FAR/PAR and Six-Pack. Those different climates such as location, racial/ethnic makeup, living-learning interests, and networks, dining services and social aspects as a whole big factor show why and how self-segregation occurs among students. Giving me an idea as references so I can go further to search more about the housing system based on the differences between the dorms. While the aiming objects in this research (FAR/PAR and Six Pack) are the most distinct dorms from each other. This relates to my question as well—are self-segregation and housing policies/system interacting each other on campus?

Novak, Wade. “Informal Segregation in Campus Housing.” (IDEAL)  
<<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/3661>>

Wade’s research is an attempt to explore the informal segregation present in undergraduate residence halls at U of I. Over the course he discovered that this picture is anything but simple. After finding out that self-segregation to some degree exists he pulls research to explore two avenues: the housing admission process and diversity levels in the dorms. He discusses how the influences a student are housing preferences and whether or not diversity existed in residence halls. Through ethnographic data gathered in the form of interviews, he attempted to understand student opinions on this informal arrangement. Since this topic is kind of being limited by the campus, Wade could not go further deep more into his research, but examines there self-segregation occurs among our campus as evidence.

This research helps me on the evidence that diversity exists in the residence halls overall, and shows both benefits and disadvantaged that diversity brings to the campus. I may based on his conclusion that diversity and self-segregation exist among University residence halls to research more on how they self-segregated and if there are some interactions between the self-segregation and University housing system policies.

### **Reflect:**

By taking the class: RHET101, I got a chance to gain and learn a lot regarding comprehensive reading skills through continuous reading assignments, essay mechanics through writing journals and essays, and profound researching skills by the final research paper. Sincerely, as a student, I would like to appreciate my instructor, who constantly pushed us to read and write. Her assignments were fairly stressful, but as an international student, I improved a lot in rhetorical writing during the limited time period. Coming from Beijing, I never got trained to read, write, and research in English. Several topics I really learned would be reading English text faster, writing in English faster and efficient, faster brain storming, how to do work cited, how to paraphrase and annotate, how to structure the essay, and lastly, how to enjoy researching. Last, but not least, the central theme of the course was about “race.” Reading, writing, and researching so much about “race,” I recently got an opportunity to becoming more open minded to all race, which I feel very grateful. Summing all up, RHET 101 class truly improved my English skills and my thoughts on race.

At the very beginning of this semester, the class had to read articles every single day, that’s when I learned the word “race” and began to think that race could be an essential issue that deals with

unequal treatments and discriminations in our daily life. This topic was brand new to me since this was the first time for me to live and study in a melting pot area: big state school in United States. As I engaged into the topic of “race” more and more, I began to brainstorm on how race affects peoples’ point of views and how people react to racism. Day by day, I paid more and more attention to this sensitive topic while others might not notice racial things happened around us. As I gave more attention to race, I found out peoples’ willingness to be comfortable stay within the certain group with people who have their own race. This was the start of my research paper.

During the time of past months’ research on interaction between the university housing policy and racial segregation, I changed several original ideas I had stick in my mind in the past. Originally, I felt only comfortable with certain racial group and preferred indifference to other racial groups. Before the research, I did not know the true meaning of the word, “race” since I never considered race as a serious issue. By this research, I learned to dedicate myself into finding the interactions between students’ self-segregation and school policy’s venial promotion to this self-segregation. There are two types of housing policy: first come first serve and lottery. I began to ponder how to combine these two policies to create fair and justified policy that can lead different racial group people together. The first come first serve system impacts specified racial groups to stick together and not get chances to open up to different racial groups. Lottery policy, on the other hand is unfair to students if students is diligent enough to sign up early to certain housing, but due to lottery, he or she suffers at a hall she or he dislikes for several years. As one of the members in the committee of Culture and Minority Student Affair, luckily, I got an opportunity of exploring through the resolution on University Housing, which strongly recommends the university to adopt a lottery housing system. Part of the resolution states that students first sign up to a hall they want in first come first serve policy, then after sign up, within the halls, halls would do a lottery system to randomize different racial groups.

I didn’t only learn about interaction between the university housing policy and racial segregation from final paper, I also learned how to adopt others’ opinion, interview people, interact with different people, and how to organize and compile all these researches I did and others’ opinions. One thing I noticed was challenging reading and writing I did through this class in the very beginning helped me to research and write more efficient and faster during the time of final research paper.